(e) the corrective steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) (a) and (b) As per information received from field formations under CBEC, there are presently 42 cases in which there are allegations that the officer concerned secured the job by submitting fake caste certificate. In accordance with the Government instructions and judicial pronouncements on the subject, the District Authorities were requested to conduct enquiry in all the cases. Out of 42 cases, the enquiry by District Authorities is still continuing in 22 cases. Further, in 13 cases, the officers have filed court cases against the orders of the District Authorities and obtained stay. In the remaining 7 cases, after completion of enquiry by District Authorities, the disciplinary authorities under CBEC have initiated disciplinary proceedings against the concerned officers, which are at various stages of completion.

(c) and (d) As per the legal position, promotions or any other service benefit cannot be denied to an officer, till the caste certificate is proved to be false after the enquiry and the same is cancelled. Hence, it is true that some of the 42 officers referred to in (a) above have got promotions.

(e) Regarding the pending disciplinary proceedings, the concerned officials of the Department have been directed to complete the same on top priority basis in a time bound manner. Regarding the enquiries pending before the District Authorities and the case is pending before the courts (which are against the orders of the District Authorities), the matter is being followed up with the concerned State/District Autorities regularly to expedite the matter. Further, instructins have been issued to field formations to be careful in verifying the caste certificates of new recruits, so that such instances of fake caste certificates can be avoided in future.

Stock exchange for SMEs

4227. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up stock exchange for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this would help the fund-starved SMEs in the State to raise funds for expansion and diversification?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) (a) to (c) No proposal has been received by SEBI to set up stock exchange for SMEs in Orissa. Setting up a stock exchange for the SME sector will facilitate small and medium enterprises to raise funds for their business needs.

Increase in food prices

4228. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: